

BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED TASK FORCE

Minutes

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

I Introductions

Jessica Dominguez welcomed meeting participants who briefly introduced themselves.

The following handouts were given: February agenda, Issues of Interest, and the January meeting minutes.

The Minutes and Agenda were approved as written.

II Ballona Creek Promenade - Playa Vista Project

Catherine Tyrrell gave a brief overview on the Playa Vista project to create a pocket linear park that will be open to the public, along the Ballona Creek. The creation of the park brings both challenges and opportunities.

Esther Margulies of Mia Lehrer & Associates gave a visual presentation on the proposed Playa Vista park. Some of the issues presented were:

- **Timing:** The park is scheduled to be finished by the apartment opening date at the end of 2002.
- **Promenade Location:** The park will be located between Lincoln Boulevard and the proposed Playa Vista Drive. The Playa Vista Drive bridge is a separate project. The park is the first public open space created on the south side of Ballona Creek.
- **Park Design:** The park has been designed as a primarily passive park facility with seating, outdoor dining and a children's play area. The park will have opportunities for birdwatching and observing the tidal flows. Native plant materials have been used where possible and permeable paving materials have been used for groundwater recharge.
- **Parking:** A question was raised about parking facilities for the park. Parking will be available on the street along nearby Playa Vista Drive, but access by walking or biking is equally important.
- **Plantings:** Native plants are specified. Native sycamore trees will provide shade and wildlife habitat. Native flowering shrubs will attract butterflies and birds as well.
- **Project Costs:** Approximately \$600,000 has been allocated for this project which includes park amenities as well as removing unstable material left from the construction of the levee.
- **Maintenance and Materials:** Materials for the park were chosen on the basis of experience with typical use patterns.

- **Fencing:** Originally Playa Vista discussed with the County removing the fence in this location completely. Given the timing for the project, this issue could not be resolved. They also discussed moving the fence to the edge of the levee. This also needs approval from both the County and the Coastal Commission. In the short term, the fence will be placed at the edge of the current top of levee maintenance road. If there is interest on the Watershed Committee, it is hoped that an additional effort can be undertaken to move the fence to the channel edge in the future. Playa has asked Mia Lehrer and Associates to do the design of the park with that future step in mind.
- **Fire Lane:** A 20 foot wide fire lane adjacent to the apartment buildings will be paved in a combination of grass pavers and asphalt. A curb will be required by the Fire Department.
- **Drainage:** The Park will not drain into the creek. Stormwater will be taken to the freshwater wetland. Permeable paving in the park will allow groundwater recharge.

Catherine suggested that the Task Force may assist in addressing the fencing issue to provide the public more and closer access to the Creek.

III Issues of Interest to the Watershed

Jim Donovan of the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program facilitated the discussion of the draft issues of interest. The issues were grouped and labeled under categories. Further prioritization will be made at the next meeting.

IV RFP Sub-Committee

Jim Lamm reported that the RFP sub-committee would like to propose to the Task Force that its name be changed to Plan Development Steering Committee since the Committee deals not only on the RFP, but also the whole contracting process as well as other issues related to the development of the watershed management plan. There was no objection to the name change.

Jim Lamm reiterated that the Plan Development Steering Committee consists of:

- Menerva Ariki/Jessica Dominguez, LA County Department of Public Works-WMD
- Guang-Yu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project
- Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance
- Jim Donovan, National Park Service Rivers and Trails
- Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles- Watershed Protection Division
- John Crosse, Vista Del Mar Neighbors Association
- Ginachi Amah, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Roy Van de Hoek, Sierra Club/Ballona Watershed Council and Conservancy, and Wing Tam was elected by members as the Chair of the Committee.

Wing Tam then reported steps the committee has taking to move forward with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The committee is in the process of listing the

required qualifications for consultants and revising the Scope of Work. The RFP will be released in four to six weeks.

V Upcoming Events

Jim Lamm stated that after the discussion on the Playa Vista project, at some point in the future, we would like to have a presentation relative to what is happening in the Baldwin Hills Park. Lu Plauzoles, of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society will confirm arrangements with Irvine Ranch regarding a presentation about the San Joaquin Marsh and relevant watershed issues at the Task Force meeting in April. At the next Task Force meeting, Roy van de Hoek will give a presentation on wildlife and native species in the Ballona Creek watershed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2002, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Room at the Plaza level of Culver City Hall, 9770 Culver Boulevard, Culver City, 90232. Free parking is available under the building via the entrance on Duquesne Avenue.

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February 13, 2002

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